

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/739,637

Applicant(s)

HECHING ET AL.

Examiner

Romain Jeanty

Art Unit

3623

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/14/05 and 5/23/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4,5 and 7.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

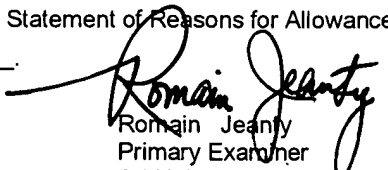
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Romain Jeanty
Primary Examiner
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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Claim 1

Line 7, after parameter, please delete " such as" and insert --including--.

Line 13, after processor, insert --wherein the trend analysis is a regular least square regression or a weighted least square regression performed over a predetermined period of time, and wherein said weighted least square regression results are inversely proportional to the variance of point estimates of the population parameter obtained in said generating of point estimates of at least one population parameter steps and generating confidence bounds for said estimates step --.

Claims 6, and 8 are canceled.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview Michael Witham (Reg. No. 32,635) on May 23, 2005.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4-5, and 7 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The closest prior art of record to is to Cohen et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,035) and to Zhu (Making Bootstrap Statistical Inferences). Cohen et al teach a method providing a centralized survey data processing means for processing survey data entered remotely

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by a plurality of survey respondents and providing a plurality of self-administered survey means for accepting survey data from respective survey respondents. Zhu teaches a method for sampling population parameters using statistics. However, the combination of Cohen et al and Zhu fails to teach predicting future survey responses of the population based on said trend analysis by calculating a forecast of future values of said population, and wherein a trend analysis is a regular least square regression or a weighted least square regression performed over a predetermined period of time taken in combination with a computer implemented method for analyzing survey data as recited in independent claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Peter (U.S. Patent No. 5,893,098) discloses a method for obtaining and collating survey information from a plurality of computer users,

b. Renaud (Wo9959096) discloses a method for generating customer surveys and customer survey reports.

c. Alavi (U.S. {Patent No. 5,970,467) discloses a method for rapidly electronically collecting survey data from different locations from interested responders.

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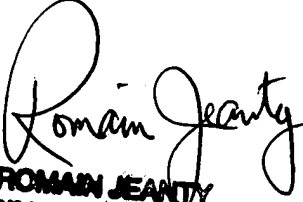
d. Duboff "Researching The Future Internet" discloses the concept of predicting target population.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Romain Jeanty whose telephone number is (571) 272-6732. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq R Hafiz can be reached on (571) 272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

May 27, 2005


ROMAIN JEANTY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3623